

REMARKS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

"Claims 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Fossum.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

"Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fossum as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Beiley et al."

Applicant's Response

Reconsideration of these holdings in the Office Action mailed on September 10, 2004 is respectfully submitted.

As amended, Claim 1 now comprises a method that involves "a MOS transistor" for selectively coupling and uncoupling the photosensor element and the storage means to one another and contains a method comprising four phases that can be characterized as an initialization phase A, an exposure phase B, a sampling phase C and a reading phase D. As now set forth in claim 1, the second and four phases the photosensor element and storage means are uncoupled from one another and during the third phase the photosensor element and storage means are coupled to one another so that the sampled signal is generated. This is done so that the image sensor is allowed to solve the problem of charge carrier diffusion in a silicon substrate that existing in a CMOS image sensor when the exposure time is very short. The claimed phases thus make the exposure and reading operations entirely independent.

The Fossum reference teaches and suggests an integration phase with the photosensor element PD being coupled to the storage means FD. Since the photosensor element and the storage means are only coupled during the sampled stage set forth in applicant's Claim 1, the Fossum reference fails to teach or suggest applicant's invention set forth in amended Claim 1 and its dependent claims.

The Bailey reference teaches or suggests continuously coupling its photosensor element (PB1) to the storage means (C1) during the integration phase. Thus, Bailey reference fails to teach or suggest applicant's invention set forth in amended Claim 1 and its dependent claims.


Because the combination of references to Fossum and Bailey teach or suggest the selective coupling and uncoupling set forth in amended Claim 1 and its dependent claims, it is respectfully submitted that these claims should be considered allowable.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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